

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00793 311407Z

45

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

MC-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 IGA-01 SAM-01 EB-07 OMB-01

(ISO) W

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R 311230Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9645

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS IR SU

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF IRANIAN PATROL BOATS TO SUDAN

REF: TEHRAN 2853

1. EMBASSY TEHRAN OF COURSE BETTER PLACED THAN WE TO JUDGE REASONS FOR IRANIAN FAILURE TO OBSERVE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BUT WE CAN BE SURE THAT GOI FULLY AWARE OF USG POLICY TOWARD SUDAN THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR IN KHARTOUM. THIS CONNECTION, HE TOLD AMBASSADOR YEAR AGO THAT IRANIANS HAD THEN INFORMED SUDANESE THAT GOI WOULD NEED OBTAIN NO OBJECTION FROM USG FOR TRANSFER ANY MAP EQUIPMENT (KHARTOUM 880, APR 25, 1974). WHILE UNMENTIONED THEN, WE WONDER WHETHER BOATS CONCEIVABLY REFERRED TO IN GOI/GOS TALKS AT THAT TIME.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00793 311407Z

2. WHETHER OR NOT GOS AWARE BOATS'

ORIGIN, SUDANESE COULD BE EXPECTED NOW TO BALK AT ANY IRANIAN REQUEST FOR THEIR RETURN. THEY WOULD BE LIKELY INTERPRET SUCH REQUEST AS NEW EXPRESSION OF PARTICULAR USG DISPLEASURE TOWARD SUDAN. WE THEREFORE AGREE WITH REFTEL RECOMMENDATION THAT USG REQUEST FOR RECALL OF BOATS NOT BE CONSIDERED.

3. AS TO POSSIBLE INSTITUTION PRECEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF TRANSFER, THIS WOULD APPEAR CLEARLY BILATERAL USG/GOI ISSUE. WE WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT IT MIGHT WELL PROVE DIFFICULT ON EX POST FACTO BASIS OBTAIN "CUSTOMARY ASSURANCES FROM GOS" (PARA 2B REFTEL). WE ALSO WONDER REGARDING UTILITY GIVING GOI "CLEAR STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY TOWARD THE SUDAN" UNLESS IRANIANS FIRST INDICATE TO US THAT THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING FURTHER TRANSFERS OF THIS CHARACTER. THIS CONNECTION, MOST RECENT USEMBASSY TEHRAN MESSAGE WE

HAVE SEEN ON SUBJECT (TEHRAN 3444, MAY 2, 1974) INDICATES THAT IRAN "COULD NOT MEET ANY OF THE SUDANESE REQUIREMENTS".
BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO00793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-0304
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975033/aaaaabsu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 2853
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF IRANIAN PATROL BOATS TO SUDAN
TAGS: MASS, IR, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006